

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

CLYBURN, James E. (Democrat)  
Representative, 6th District, South Carolina  
Elected 1992 to the 103d Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Sumter, South Carolina - 21 July 1940  
Home: Columbia, South Carolina  
Marital status: Married (Emily) - three children  
Religion: African Methodist Episcopal  
Education: South Carolina State College, BS, 1962  
Military: None

Profession: Retired state government official; teacher

Political: South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner, 1974-92. Resigned to run for the newly redistricted majority-black seat. Defeated John Chase (R) in the Nov92 general election with 65% of the vote. Reelected in 2000 with 72% of the vote and in 2002 with 67%..

Rep Clyburn, a liberal, is the first black sent to Congress from South Carolina since 1896 (when his uncle, George Washington Murray, served). Has a long history of community service, especially in the civil rights arena. Recommended that all areas where military bases are closed be named empowerment communities and enterprise zones. Actively sought and was elected by freshmen Democrats as president of their class for the second session of the 103rd Congress. Believes smoking restrictions in federal buildings aren't fair to workers. Favored removing the ban on homosexuals in the military.

During the 105<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep Clyburn joined several others from the South Carolina delegation in gaining a posthumous officer's commission on 22Sep97 for James Webster Smith, the first black to attend the US Military Academy (Wash Times, 23Sep97). In December 1997 joined several others in asking the GAO to investigate whether political contributions helped get people burial plots at Arlington National Cemetery (Wash times, 11Dec97). Opposed an amendment to the FY98 budget resolution that would have reduced overall defense spending by \$5.6B. Supported bombing Iraq for continued refusal to allow arms inspectors access to sites.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, appointed to Appropriations and came off Transportation and Infrastructure and Veterans' Affairs Cmtes. Named to serve on investigative subcmtes of the Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics) Cmte. Elected chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Congratulated Mr. Alphonso "Al" Maldon, Jr., for his confirmation as Asst Sec/Def for Force Management Policy; noted that his career included more than 20 years of Army commissioned service and work in the White House Office of Congressional Liaison; added that he was proud to count Mr. Maldon as a friend. Announced 4Aug99 that he would resign his seat on the Appropriations Cmte to make room for Rep Forbes (who switched parties to become a Democrat), with the understanding that he would be reappointed during the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with his prior seniority.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, honored the memory of Corporal Kelly Stephen Keith, USMC, who was killed with eighteen other Marines on 9Apr00 when their aircraft crashed in Arizona on a training exercise. Announced a \$10M appropriations to the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority to be used to renovate two existing buildings with the intent of locating the Southern Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command on the former base. Believed the continued presence of the Southern Division is good news for Charleston. Co-sponsored 'concurrent receipt' resolution and a resolution calling for the restoration of health care coverage for retired members of the uniformed services.

Additional: Earned Nation Governors' Assoc's Annual Award for Distinguished Service to State Government (Cook Political Report, 18Dec92, p.113). Member, Democratic Steering Cmte

AF Bases: McEntire ANGB

## COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subc on Transportation; Subc on Energy and Water Development